



# LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT

MELTON HIGHWAY, SYDENHAM

## LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

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Removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings will transform the way people live, work and travel across metropolitan Melbourne and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

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## We've been listening!

Since February this year, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has been talking and listening to the community about the project, the development of its design, how we can deliver the project and how to reduce impacts to the area during construction.

We've gathered plenty of feedback at drop-in sessions, train station pop ups, and through our website and social media channels.

The preferred road over rail design is now being adapted where possible to take into account what we heard, particularly around access and landscaping. Read more overleaf.

### COME TO OUR DROP-IN SESSION

We'll be back in Sydenham to present the updated designs, which have built on what we showed you at the last sessions and which have been amended based on what we learnt from talking to you.

The next drop in sessions will be held at the Sydenham/Caroline Springs Uniting Church at 514-516 Melton Highway, Sydenham at the following times:

- Thursday 5 May 6pm-8pm
- Saturday 7 May 10am-midday

We hope to see you there!



SIGN UP FOR UPDATES - [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)



## WHY ROAD OVER RAIL?

The Melton Highway site is unique and there were numerous factors leading to this preferred solution, including:

- Ground conditions – dense basalt in the area makes a cutting or tunnel incredibly difficult and disruptive to construct
- High water table – with some nearby land classified as subject to inundation, preventing flooding of the rail or road if below surface level, would be extremely difficult and very costly. Accommodating the creek just to the north of the crossing would also present significant challenges
- Cultural and environmental – heritage sites and federally protected plant species in the area add major obstacles to delivering a rail over road option
- Other options would have also required significant disruptions to the rail and road networks during construction.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Drop in sessions in May
- Release of Expressions of Interest to select a shortlist of contractors to present their designs and costs for tender by June
- Awarding a contract by late 2016
- Commencing work in early 2017



Artists impression of the aerial view of the proposed bridge.

## What you told us

Through the feedback forms received at the drop in sessions, and in the mail, face-to-face conversations with residents, stakeholders and business owners, and online feedback through social media and email, we have heard a range of views and opinions. Here's what we heard:

- There was a high level of support for removal of the level crossing as it is dangerous and congested.
- There were concerns raised about restricting direct access off Melton Highway to Sydenham and Victoria Roads.
- Some respondents noted they would prefer a rail over road or rail under road option.
- Interest in the visual impact and look of the structure.
- Keenness for planting/landscaping to be done as part of the project.
- Safety, reducing travel times and access to businesses were key issues raised.

This feedback is helpful and we are adapting the project where possible to address your expectations.

This includes investigating ways to provide alternative access to the highway from Sydenham and Victoria Roads, and including more landscaping.

## Our preferred design

Following early planning to inform what options were feasible for removing the Melton Highway level crossing, we worked up some initial plans of what the solution might look like. What we arrived at as a preferred solution was 'road over rail'. This means a road bridge will rise over the rail line, with the bridge approaches and structure from Overton Lea Boulevard to west of McCubbin Drive (first entrance to Watergardens Town Centre).

While this will prevent direct access to Melton Highway from Sydenham and Victoria Roads in future, these roads will be linked underneath the bridge. It will provide improved walking and cycling links, with shared use paths and disability access provision.